

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-33 are pending, in which claims 27 and 31 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced. The amendment to independent claims 27 and 31 incorporate claim language that was previously presented, for example in claim 16, and thus, such changes are not believed to raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The final Office Action mailed July 16, 2003 rejected claims 1, 10, 16, 19, 27 and 31 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Taskett* (US 5,923,734) in view of *Cho* (US 5,978,452); claims 2, 18 and 20 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Taskett* in view of *Cho* in further view of *Khuc et al.* (US 5,828,740); claims 3-4, 11, 12, 21, 22, 28, 32 and 33 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Taskett* in view of *Cho* and in further view of *Bruno et al.* (US 5,991,380); claims 5, 13, 23 and 29 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Taskett* in view of *Cho* in view of *Bruno et al.* and in further view of *Nguyen et al.* (US 5,815,561); and claims 6-9, 14, 15, 17, 24-26 and 30 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Taskett* in view of *Cho* and in further view of *Gow* (US 5,828,732).

Independent claims 1 and 10 each recites “a request to record said personal greeting **during a setup call** over a telephone network.” Independent claim 16 recites “accessing a pre-paid telephone calling card processing system during a pre-paid telephone **calling card setup call** via a telephone network,” and “**recording a personal greeting during said setup call.**” Amended independent claims 27 and 31 recite “wherein said personal greeting was recorded **during a card setup call.**”

Applicants respectfully contend that the Office Action misunderstands the above claim feature, as evident by the arguments proffered on page 18, item 9 of the Office Action. Namely,

in response to Applicants' assertion (made in the response dated May 12, 2003) that none of the applied references discloses "a request to record said personal greeting **during a setup call** over a telephone network," the Office Action argues that in the *Cho* system, the recording of a greeting is "done during the call setup." Applicants note that "call setup" disclosed in *Cho* is not the claimed "setup call," which pertains to the setup process of the calling card (which is fully supported in the Specification, for example, on page 7, line 28 – page 8, line 2; page 13, lines 3-11; and FIG. 2A). Accordingly, the language "setup call" is distinct from the "call setup" of *Cho*, as cited in the passage of col. 5, lines 4-31. This distinction is further emphasized in claims 16, 27, and 31, which recite "card setup call."

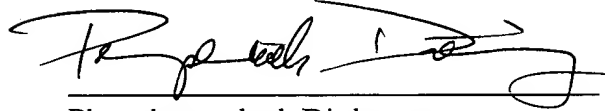
The several secondary references of *Khuc et al.*, *Bruno et al.*, *Nguyen et al.*, and *Gow* do not fill in the gaps of the *Taskett* and *Cho* combination, particularly with respect to the feature of "a request to record said personal greeting **during a setup call** over a telephone network." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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